[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Every endeavour is being made by the Chief Engineer to spend the allotments fully.

Karkatasseri—Neduvakkad Road.

282. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to arrange for the village road from Karkatasseri landing place near Muvattupuzha to Neduvakkad being converted at once into a cart road?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The conversion of this village road into a cart road is being investigated by the Chief Engineer.

Expenditure on Irrigation.

283. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state the total expenditure on irrigation during the last seven years, and the portion spent for the Kottayam Division alone?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The total expenditure incurred on irrigation during the last seven years was Rs. 16,03,264, of which a sum of Rs. 95,299 was spent in the Kottayam Division.

Conversion into Paddy Lands of a certain Tract in Muvattupuzha Taluk.

284. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that there is an area of about two thousand acres of very fertile land along the northern banks of the Periyar, included in the reserve and lying along its borders and measuring about twelve miles in length, from the junction of the Deviyar (a tributary of the Periyar) with the Periyar in Muvattupuzha taluk up to Tattakad road, and that there is adequate facility for converting this area into cultivable lands by the diversion of the Deviyar water through the necessary irrigation channels without much cost?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to depute experts to make preliminary investigations for carrying out this project?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) They are aware of the locality referred to.

(*b*) The Disafforestation Committee for the Muvattupuzha taluk will have something to say in regard to this area and Government will await the report of that committee.

Konni Pepper Farm.

285. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): (*a*) What is the distance from the Main Central Road to the Konni Pepper Farm? Is the road to the farm cartable?

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(*b*) Do the Government think that they can realise the money expended on the farm till now by selling it in auction either as a whole or in lots?

(*c*) Is not this farm located at a place which is difficult of access to visitors from the other parts of the State?

(*d*) Will it not be more beneficial if a few sites are chosen either from the reserves or from the waste lands lying close to the main road, and small farms established in two or three places?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to open two or three small farms near the main road as suggested above by means of the funds obtainable by the auction sale of the Konni Pepper Farm either as a whole or in small lots?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Fourteen miles. Access to the farm is by the Konni-Achenkoil trace which, with slight improvements, can be made cartable. The approach road from the trace to the farm is in good condition. Steps have already been taken to convert the trace into a cartable road.

(*b*) The question does not arise as the Government have no intention of selling it.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The pepper farm is meant primarily for conducting large-scale experiments to study the various factors influencing the yield, and these experiments should be carried out on typical lands of large area. When the trace above referred to is improved, the farm will have all the facilities required for an experimental station. Small farms will not afford ample facilities for large-scale experiments, and if they are to be maintained efficiently, the charges on account of establishment will have to be increased considerably. Since the department wanted 300 to 400 acres in a block, and as such sites were not available elsewhere, the present locality was selected.

(*e*) The answer is in the negative.

Admission to the Alwaye Agricultural School.

286. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): (*a*) What examination qualification has been prescribed for candidates seeking admission to the Agricultural School at Alwaye?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a taluk-war statement showing how many applications from such qualified candidates were received from each taluk and how many of such applications were accepted from each taluk?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The member is referred to the prospectus of the Agricultural School, Alwaye, published on pages 66 and 67 of the Agricultural Sheet of the *Government Gazette*, dated the 26th February, 1924.

(*b*) A statement* containing the information required by the member is laid on the table.

* *Vide* appendix VI—page 997.

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